



July 3, 2008

Last Issue

Dear Readers: This is the last issue of the USAID Bulgaria Biweekly Newsletter!

The Mission will close on September 30, 2008.

Thank you for your support and cooperation over the past 17 years!

Please consult our website, <http://bulgaria.usaid.gov>, if you need information about USAID activities in Bulgaria.

>> Mission Director Michael Fritz Departs Bulgaria



The cake at Michael Fritz's farewell party celebrated building bridges (not only the sugar kind!) between Balkan neighbors.

Michael Fritz, who assumed leadership as USAID Bulgaria Mission Director in July 2005, left Bulgaria on June 20. Mr. Fritz will take up duties as Mission Director for USAID Macedonia in August. In addition to directing a \$120 million project portfolio supporting rule of law, economic development, promotion of private sector-led growth, and local government reform, all of which were major contributions in helping Bulgaria prepare for European Union accession, Mr. Fritz oversaw the successful completion of USAID programs in Bulgaria and the creation of legacy mechanisms that will continue to support local organizations' efforts to achieve important reforms.❖

>> USAID Initiative Replicated by Supreme Judicial Council

On June 26, Bulgaria's Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) organized a two-day conference on judicial management for all the court chairs and court administrators from the 41 courts in the Sofia Appellate District. The USAID legacy NGO, the Program for the Development of the Judicial System (PDJS), played a pivotal role in the conference. The morning session was devoted to PDJS's presentation of the USAID Model Court initiative and how other courts can replicate these best practices. The SJC decided to conduct, at its own expense, the same program for the other four appellate districts in Bulgaria. This bodes well for the sustainability and replication of the USAID investment in judicial reform.❖

>> Journalist Wins Award for Investigation into Police Corruption

A Broadcast Training Center reporter, Borislav Georgiev, won the annual Veronica Guerin award for an investigation about police involvement in the distribution of illegal drugs in Sofia. The award is named after an Irish investigative reporter, Veronica Guerin, who was killed in 1996 for her work against drug dealers in her country. The award was presented by the Regional Anti-Drug Council of Blagoevgrad on June 17. The Broadcast Training Center produces a weekly investigative program, Na Chisto, that explores alleged cases of corruption and mismanagement. Na Chisto began airing five years ago with USAID support and will continue to be produced with the support of Nova TV. More details about the award are available at <http://veronica.neumirai.org/istoria.html> ❖



July 3, 2008

Last Issue



Present and former USAID Bulgaria staff gathered for an outdoor lunch on June 27 to say farewell to the latest departing employees as the Mission continues its close-out transition.



The four most recent employees to leave USAID Bulgaria: Ina Sirakova, Sylvia Apostolova, Kiril Kiryakov and Katherine Ingmanson.

